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## CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION, NOVEMBER 1, 1928.

The Corn Belt demand for stocker and feeder cattle during October this year, while above that of October, 1927, fell off rather sharply compared to what it had been during July, August and September of this year. The shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt States in October this year were about the same as in October, 1927, with prices nearly 20 percent higher than in October last year. For the three months July to September, this year, the movement into the Corn Belt was 45 percent larger than for these months in 1927, with prices 35 percent higher.

The total shipments of unfinished cattle through public stockyards into the Corn Belt States for four months, July to October, were 236,000 head, or 25 percent larger than for the same months in 1927; were about the same as for these months in 1926 and 1925, but 4 percent below the five-year average for this period. Nearly all of the increased movement this year was into the States west of the Mississippi River, total shipments into this area for the four months this year being the largest for the period in four years. The movement into the States east of the river, while about 4 percent larger than last year, was much below any other year since 1921.

It does not seem likely that the movement of stockers and feeders into the Corn Belt during November and December will be as large as the comparatively heavy shipments during this period last year. The supply of available cattle will be smaller and the demand for feeders less urgent. The total movement for six months July to December this year will doubtless exceed last year, but will be smaller than for any other year since 1921.

The weight classification of feeder steer shipments from four leading markets during October show that the proportion of heavy feeders, over 900 pounds, continued larger than last year, although there was a sharp decline in the prices of short fed cattle during the month. For the four months July to September the movement of heavy feeders this year considerably exceeded the movement last year, but was much smaller than in 1926 or 1925.

Reports from the western States indicate that cattle feeding this coming winter will probably be on a considerably reduced scale in most States im that area. West of the Continental Divide winter range prospects are not good and more hay and grain will be needed for wintering both stock cattle and sheep than for some years. As a result the price of hay is considerably higher than a year ago. This, and the high level of feeder cattle prices is expected to discourage feeding in most States. In Northern Colorado smaller supplies than last year of both alfalfa hay and beet pulp will probably reduce cattle feeding, but there may be some increase in other sections of the State.

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